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folio

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Psych prof 'pied' for charity

Christmas brings out the best on campus

By Richard Cairney

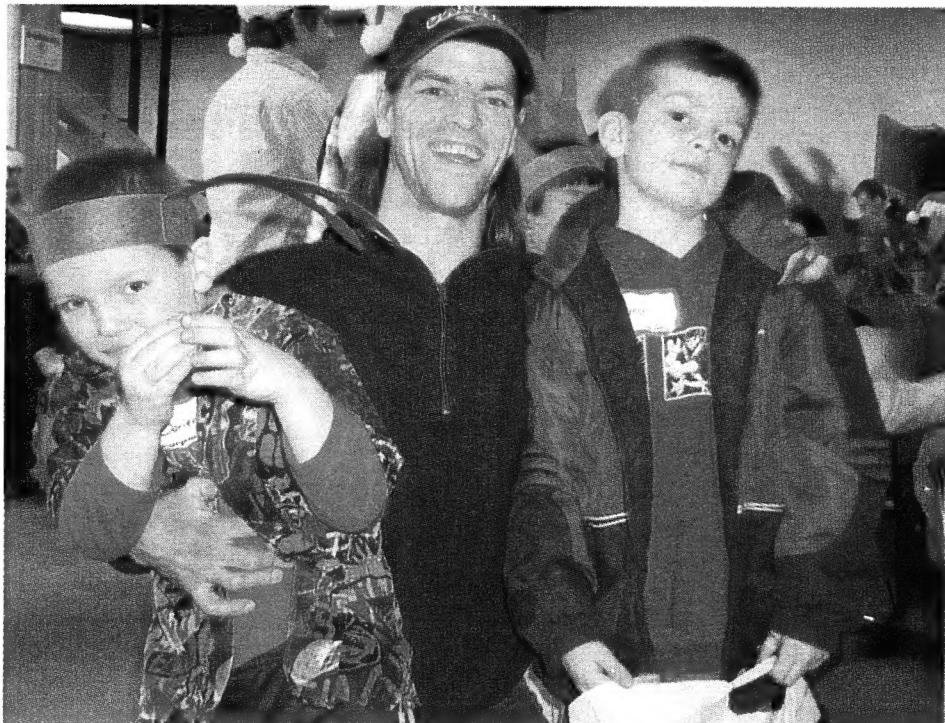
The Christmas season can often be a little unpredictable, but this year things threatened to get downright out of hand. With the holidays approaching, university students invited elementary students for a day of fun and games in the midst of final exams. And a psychology professor took a pie in the face to raise funds for the food bank and demonstrate how the limbic system works.

Dr. Connie Varnhagen has a gentle, warm, infectious laugh. Ask her to tell you about getting a pie in the face and you're sure to hear that laugh, and a pretty good story.

It goes something like this: As part of an effort by the University of Alberta's Department of Psychology to raise funds this Christmas, a bounty of sorts was put on the heads of 10 psychology professors. The students who raised the most money would win the privilege of "pieing" their prof during class. Varnhagen's students came out on top, raising \$250, a sum Varnhagen matched. All totaled, the psychology department donated approximately \$2,000 to CBC's annual Christmas fundraiser.

All that was left was the hit. Days dragged on until Varnhagen made her final appearance before her first-year psychology students, working the event into her talk about the limbic system.

"I was talking to them about how emotion serves to arouse us to action, and there was this emotional stimulus off to my left which was Peter Hurd, my col-



Justin Standing and his sons Darien, 5, and Damon, 7, attended the Students' Union Christmas Party last week.

league, standing there with a chocolate banana cream pie," she said.

"So I told the class how my limbic system was appraising whether this was a fight or flight situation, and how my cerebral cortex was doing a cognitive appraisal and that, while this really was a flight situation, I had to be there to accept the pie on the face and that my brain stem was causing my heart to race, my voice to get really high and my hands to shake.

"It was interesting that it fit in with the last lesson – they are paying for the class, right? And now they will never forget what role the limbic system plays in emotion, because they got me."

A few days later, five-year-old Darien Standing's limbic system was working overtime as he joined about 350 kindergarten and elementary school students in the Students' Union's eighth annual Inner City Kids Christmas Party.

"I told Santa I was a good boy," said

Standing, a kindergarten student from St. Patrick's School.

Darien's father Justin, whose older son Damon was also at the party, was impressed by the event. "The kids have been having a great time," he said. "You should have seen them on the bus on the way here – they were a bit hyper, that's for sure."

U of A student volunteers were pretty excited, too.

"One little girl told us Santa doesn't come to her house because they don't have a chimney," one of the volunteers said, tears welling up in her eyes. "So we're thinking about getting a gift for her from Santa and bringing it to her school."

"Those are exactly the kinds of kids we're trying to reach," said Mariel Dagot, the SU's student activities co-ordinator.

Those children had the second floor of the Students' Union Building buzzing with energy for most of the day. "We had them making antlers and reindeer safety pins and singing carols – and eating pizza," said Kail Ross, the SU's vice-president (student life).

Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, Lois Hole, was also on hand, giving each child a hug as they wound along the line-up towards Santa.

"We told the kids she's the Queen's friend, and they were pretty excited," one student said. Another called the former U of A chancellor "a hugging machine."

"Lois has been amazing," added Ross. "She just revels in this sort of thing. And Santa's been great too."■



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Prof reconstructs heads and necks

Former WISEST student returns to U of A

By Phoebe Dey

When she was in Grade 11, Gail Thornton came to work with University of Alberta researchers under the Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) program. She later earned a degree in mechanical engineering. Now, at the age of 31, she's back.

Thornton was recently appointed to hold a new \$1.2-million research chair that will allow scientists to improve treatment methods for people requiring reconstruction of the head and neck as a result of disease or injury. The position will enhance the research being conducted jointly at the U of A and the Craniofacial Osseointegration and Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation Unit (COMPRU) at the Misericordia Community Hospital.

Biomechanical engineering combines engineering and basic sciences to solve problems in medicine and biology. Studying the mechanical properties of tissues of the body helps researchers understand how to reconstruct tissues and how to evaluate and improve the reconstruction's success. Currently, prostheses are often attached to implants anchored into the patient's bones. Improved understanding of the mechanics at the interface between the bone and implant may help improve treatment success.

"Once we have a better understanding of short-term and long-term effects of external loading of implants on the biomechanics of the interface, perhaps we can redesign implants to optimize post-operative treatment and long-term treatment success," said Thornton.

One person anxiously awaiting those results is Jason Norgard. Fourteen years ago, Norgard lost his left eye to cancer and received a prosthetic eye through COMPRU. The prosthesis attaches magnetically to metal implants in his eye socket, in much the same way that tinted lenses "clip on" to prescription glasses. He hopes Thornton's research will help in ensuring the metal implants attached to the top of his cheek bone stay in place. "I've lost six implants so far, so I really hope this research can help with that," he said.

The idea to create a chair in interfacial biomechanics, formally known as the COMPRU/Westaim/ASRA Chair in Interfacial Biomechanics, first emerged five years ago in a conversation between COMPRU director Johan Wolfaardt and U of A engineering professor Gary Faulkner,



Jason Norgard lost his left eye to cancer 14 years ago and now wears a prosthetic eye (inset). Research by Dr. Gail Thornton, recently appointed to the new COMPRU/Westaim/ASRA Chair in Interfacial Biomechanics Research, could help improve on existing devices.

who is also a clinical fellow at COMPRU. "Dean (David) Lynch listened patiently and never said no," said Wolfaardt. "To have an individual of Gail Thornton's calibre...will benefit those who need care in years to come."

After completing her degree at the U of A, Thornton went on to earn her master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She earned her PhD at the University of Calgary.

Funding for the chair comes from the Caritas Health Group (\$500,000), the Westaim Corporation (\$350,000), and the Alberta Science and Research Authority (\$350,000).

This chair also facilitates a permanent

strategic link between COMPRU and the U of A Faculty of Engineering, with the dual benefit of exposing engineering graduate students to the clinic and clinical fellows to the research laboratory.

"The University of Alberta is very pleased to partner with COMPRU, Westaim and ASRA in the establishment of this important research chair," said Dr. Rod Fraser, President of the University of Alberta. "This unique partnership is an excellent opportunity to pool our resources for the long-term benefit of all Albertans and Canadians. We are grateful that the University of Alberta will take a leading role in shaping our province's future in an area of great importance to us all." ■

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2H1

LEE ELLIOTT: Director,
Office of Public Affairs

RICHARD CAIRNEY: Editor

GEOFF MCMASTER: Assistant Editor

CONTRIBUTORS:

Richard Cairney, Phoebe Dey, Geoff McMaster,
Ryan Smith

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Elise Almeida, Penny Snell, Jennifer Windsor

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Inquiries,

comments and letters should be directed to Richard Cairney, editor, 492-0439
richard.cairney@ualberta.ca

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Support staff members support students

Donors direct help to students in need

By Ryan Smith

Keltie Tolmie knows as well as anyone the University of Alberta would not exist without its students. A U of A graduate (BA '84) and support staff member since 1981, Tolmie has seen tuition rise by more than 210 per cent at the U of A in the past decade, and she and her colleagues have united to offer students some help.

"It is important for young people to have the opportunity to study and train at the U of A, and once they're at the U of A they can be quite needy—books and tuition aren't getting any cheaper," said Tolmie, an administrator in the U of A School of Business Department of Finance and Management Science.

Tolmie has contributed to the U of A development fund every year since she graduated. However, she has decided to earmark her donation for the School of Business Support Staff Scholarship every year since 1998, the year the scholarship was created.

"I used to give to the general fund but was happy to learn I could target my donation to specific programs," she said. "There are support systems in place to pay for infrastructure and help faculty members with their research, but there's not always so much for students, and I think students are very deserving of our support."

"We always say around here that the School of Business is training tomorrow's leaders, so we hope the students we help will keep in mind the support they receive



Business student Kevin Roseke, with Keltie Tolmie, is grateful for a \$1,000 scholarship from university support staff.

and then when they are established they will give back themselves to others who are up and coming," Tolmie added.

Currently, the \$1,000-a-year scholarship is developed through business staff donations, staff fundraisers, and matching funds from the dean of business's office. It is awarded each year to a business student who demonstrates financial need and academic ability. Kevin Roseke, a third-year business student and former valedictorian of his high school, Queen Elizabeth in north Edmonton, is the recipient this year.

"I certainly needed the help, and \$1,000 is a lot of money, especially to a student," Roseke said. "It feels really good to know there are people out there who support education and are rooting for students."

Gifts in Action

Roseke is a self-described hard worker who spends an average of 30 hours a week studying outside of class. "But it's way more than that during mid-terms and finals."

He plans to go to graduate school, perhaps law or medicine he says, after he gets his business degree, but he doesn't have any defined goals beyond "doing the best I can at whatever I'm doing."

"I like business because I like critical and analytical thinking, working with numbers, and finding solutions to problems. Also, business is becoming a more and more important part of everyone's career, from music to sports to engineering, that I think there are many things I can do with a general bachelor of commerce degree," Roseke said.

"I'm very grateful for this scholarship. It's hard to describe how grateful I am. And when I'm doing a little better I definitely plan to give back to others and keep the ball rolling," he added.

(With the 2003 Family Campaign around the corner, Gifts in Action will be a recurring series in Folio. For further information on other Faculty & Staff Gifts in Action, or to make a gift to the U of A, contact Jeff Wright at the Development Office at 492-6765.) ■

Writing a prescription for health care

Romanow's report strong on solutions, short on strategies

By Geoff McMaster

Alberta Health Minister Gary Mar said it might as well have been written on the back of a postage stamp. But a majority of Canadians, according to a recent poll, said they liked what they saw in Roy Romanow's prescription for the health care system.

Love it or hate it, however, there is one thing almost everyone agrees on. While the Romanow report may outline a lot of good ideas, it fails to explain how to pay for them beyond assuming federal surpluses will cover the cost. But as health economist Dr. Paul Boothe was quick to point out, surpluses are about as dependable as the weather.

"The sustainability issue has not been addressed," said Boothe, once a deputy finance minister in Romanow's NDP government in Saskatchewan. "There are lots and lots of competing demands for those surpluses, and the federal finance department itself disputes their existence on into the future. Saying that health should be first in line for them on an ongoing basis is a bit of a stretch."

The federal government has already been pressured to hand over more money for everything from the Kyoto Protocol to the military to better urban housing. And by spending more on health, says Boothe, the government will be also be forced to divert resources from education, social services, the environment and "other things that people care about."

Trevor Harrison, research director of the U of A's Parkland Institute, says Romanow should have "bitten the bullet" and recommended a tax increase. While he admits to being "excited" by the report, which he calls "one of the more substantial and valuable additions to altering public policy in a positive way that we've had in this country in 20 or 30 years," he feels Romanow should have taken the honest, if unpopular, route. People in this country have clearly indicated they consider medicare fundamental to Canadian values, he says. And so they should be willing to dig a little deeper to make it work.

"To the extent he suggests it can all be paid for with surpluses, that's one criticism that can fairly be lodged here," said Harrison. "When you actually break it down, though, \$500 per person per year would give us \$8 billion. Imagine what you could do with \$8 billion?"

"I understand the poor couldn't pay for it, but I would pay out \$500 if someone told me I could have better education, good roads, health care, money into the military even – most of us could afford it. All it would mean for most of us is postponing buying our Walkman or whatever...I think a lot of Canadians understand you don't get anything for free."

Aside from some disappointment on the financial side, however, the Romanow report has been generally welcomed on campus as a breath of fresh air. Even its harshest critics, such as Boothe, say it proposes "some good things."

There are 47 recommendations in total, including an extension of medicare to include, among other things, prescription drugs, home care, better primary care and more support for rural and aboriginal health. It also recommends a ban on extra billing for diagnostic services such as MRI scans, that accountability be added to the existing five principles of the Canada Health Act and proposes the creation of a new Canada Health Council to monitor it.



Roy Romanow suggests the federal government should provide more money to health care. Now people are wondering where that money would come from.

The report also leans sharply away from increasing private health care – still, perhaps, the biggest bone of contention among those on both sides of health care reform.

Boothe argues there is no good reason why the private sector shouldn't be more involved in health care delivery if it increases efficiency, especially if medicare picks up the tab so patients are not billed directly and there is no danger of queue jumping. "Why do all health care workers need to be government employees? That doesn't make sense."

However Harrison says the Romanow report moves in the right direction in recommending an expansion of medicare. He says Romanow's approach could not be more different from that of Don Mazankowski, the former deputy prime minister whose report for the Alberta government, released earlier this year, recommended more private involvement.

Harrison calls the Mazankowski report "a horrible methodological use of statistics" and "weirdly inconsequential." He adds that it is "not very adventuresome even from the position of right wing people – it just does nothing."

Harrison says he is uneasy with privatizing health care for two reasons, especially when larger corporations enter the picture. It will make the Canadian system more vulnerable to legal challenges under international trade agreements and, more importantly, introduces the profit motive where it simply doesn't belong: "that's where we clearly draw the line."

Dr. Donna Wilson, a nursing professor who specializes in health policy and palliative care, agrees. She has just finished her own study on the private/public dilemma and was delighted to see her findings confirmed in Romanow's report.

"You really have to give credit to his team – they did a very thorough job and found there is just no evidence private can do it better," she said. She was also heart-

ened to see Canadians regard public health care as a sacred trust. "We really don't want a system where you know you have health care, but your neighbour doesn't because they can't afford it."

And like Harrison, Wilson is adamant that profit has no place in the health system.

When it is introduced, the number of tests and surgeries double, triple, even climb to eight times as many, she says. "(Profit) becomes the number one concern of CEOs and doctors, and the patients get suspicious that they are a target, so they lose trust and begin to sue."

And that's only the beginning, says Wilson, "without going into fraud, corruption, insurance schemes and all the rest of it – it's very clearly documented."

The Romanow report also went further than any previous report, including that of Senator Michael Kirby, in making recommendations on aboriginal health. It was high time someone did, said Dr. Malcolm King, professor of medicine and a member of the U of A's Health Science Council Working Group on Aboriginal Health: "There was a general consensus at all levels of government that the current system is unacceptable."

The report made it clear there are "deep and continuing disparities between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians, both in their overall health and in their ability to access health care services." It points out, for example, that in 2000, the gap between life expectancy of First Nations people and other Canadians was about 7.4 years for men and 5.2 years for women. This is partly due to such factors as a high diabetes rate, growing rates of HIV infection, cardiac problems and high disability rates, as well as greater exposure to problems such as alcohol abuse and drug addiction.

One reason the aboriginal health sys-

tem is falling behind, according to the report, is "fragmented funding." Money that comes from a variety of funding sources is poorly tracked and therefore inefficiently put to use. Consolidating this funding to create partnerships and avoid redundancies, as Romanow recommends, "makes a lot of sense," says King.

"I just hope they go about it the right way, so that they actually get buy-in from aboriginal communities," he said. "There is a great deal of skepticism about the motives of government, particularly when it comes to economic things. I think First Nations are rather wary of something like this, because they may see it as merely an attempt of the federal government to reduce its financial obligations by shifting them off to other groups or funding mechanisms."

And like provinces such as Alberta, says King, First Nations people may also reject the earmarking of federal transfer payments so that they are separate from social security and education funds. Nothing runs more against the grain of aboriginal thought than separating and compartmentalizing social concerns.

"They have a more holistic view of health, at least traditionally, and don't see the separations that have arisen just because of the way our professions have developed over the decades," said King.

"In many bands health and social services are integrally combined...because social conditions are a major determinant of health. Aboriginal people have long seen it that way, and people in the social sciences side of health research see it that way too. Education, housing, unemployment are all major determinants of health."

Overall academics at the U of A would probably give Romanow's report an A-. It has everything they were looking for, if a little short on financial acumen and specific strategy for implementation.

What everyone now awaits is a clear sign of political will on the part of the federal government to implement the recommendations.

"I think they have the political will," said Wilson. "But I'm enough of a skeptic to have to see it to believe it." ■

"I would pay out \$500 if someone told me I could have better education, good roads, health care, money into the military even – most of us could afford it. All it would mean for most of us is postponing buying our Walkman or whatever..."

– Trevor Harrison

Arts department will be dismantled

Comparative literature to discontinue; others to move

By Ryan Smith

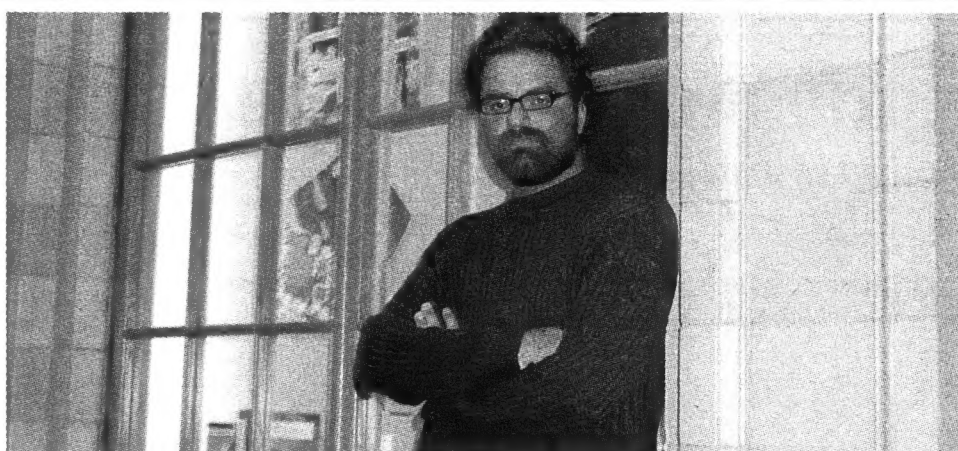
There has been much talk and speculation, but the only certain thing, says Dr. Daniel Woolf, is that the University of Alberta Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies will not exist after June 2003.

"This is not a funding issue. There will be no layoffs of staff and all contractual obligations with students currently in these programs will be honoured," said Woolf, dean of the U of A Faculty of Arts.

"We consulted with a number of members in the department and, in spite of the best intentions of some people and a tremendous effort by the chair of the department, we decided the department is no longer a viable administrative unit, and each of these disciplines will be better served if they are reorganized in some way," Woolf said.

An implementation committee, including one undergraduate and graduate student each, nominated by the Arts Undergraduate Society and the U of A Graduate Students' Association, is discussing what will happen to the programs in the department after it is dismantled.

According to information on the Faculty of Arts Web site, religious studies scholars will likely transfer to the department of history and classics. Comparative literature scholars will likely transfer to the department of modern languages and cultural studies or the department of English, depending on their backgrounds and qualifications. Film and media studies scholars will likely transfer to the department of English, the department of art and design, or another department in the Faculty of Arts. All these matters remain



Dalbir Sehmy and his fellow students vow they'll fight to save comparative literature as the Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies is being dismantled.

to be determined.

"I expect the implementation committee will consult with a broad range of people and will be highly sensitive to the needs and wants of faculty members and stakeholders," Woolf added.

"I hesitate to speak for other faculty members because there is such a diversity of opinion," said department chair Dr. Jerry Varsava, "but I think there is a general acceptance of the value of administrative reorganization. And I think there is faith that the implementation committee will work to ensure the disciplines are strengthened by this move."

However, some people in the faculty, including award-winning PhD student and teaching assistant Dalbir Sehmy, are upset by a number of things related to the issue. Sehmy is unhappy that the department is breaking up and the decision to break it up was not the result of a "democratic process."

"Undergraduate and graduate students were given no voice in the dean's decision," said Sehmy. "We learned about it after the fact and now we're trying to pick up the pieces."

Sehmy said he and like-minded colleagues have vowed to fight to save the undergraduate comparative literature program, the only program in the department that administrators have proposed to discontinue. They have started a letter writing campaign and plan to develop a Web site.

After Sehmy and other graduate students in the department recently met with Woolf, Sehmy sounded more optimistic: "We were told the proposal to discontinue the undergraduate comp lit program is not a done deal. The dean told us to fight for the discipline as much as we can, but I don't think we should have been pushed to the defence as we have been."

Sehmy described comparative literature as being "dedicated to international

communication through the academic analysis of the ways cultures write themselves from the oral to the media age." He added that the discipline provides an excellent foundation to explore topics in religion and media studies.

"I don't think the dean realized how well these disciplines worked together," Sehmy said. "It doesn't affect me so much because I graduate next year, but I think the academic legacy should be preserved."

The department came into its current form in 1998 due to a number of factors, one of them being funding cutbacks. Varsava and Sehmy both noted that enrolment and interest in the department are currently "strong" and students and faculty in the department have won a disproportionate number of academic and teaching awards.

Dr. Jerry White earned the U of A Governor General's award as the top PhD graduate at the fall convocation. He is also a recent addition to the department as a professor of film/media studies. "I initially came to this university, I drove all the way from Philadelphia, because of the joint programs in this department," White said.

"I didn't know the department would be dismantled when I accepted my faculty position, but right now I'm taking a 'wait and see' approach. I think comparative literature is important, and I'm taking the dean at his word that it will remain intact," White added. "I don't exactly feel like the rug has been pulled out from under me, but I'll wait until the committee has made its decisions before I get really happy or really angry." ■

Former president changed the face of the university

Harry Gunning was an influential scientist and administrator

Dr. Harry Gunning, an internationally renowned scholar who served as president of the University of Alberta from 1974 – 1979, passed away Nov. 24.

Gunning was born in Toronto on Dec. 16, 1916. He attended the University of Toronto, earning a BA in Honours Chemistry and Honours English, an MA and a PhD in Physical Chemistry.

While his intellectual interest firmly focussed on science he was thrilled during his university years by some of the "great scholars in the Arts faculties" at the U of T like G. Wilson Knight, enjoyed participating as a member of the University College Players Guild in productions with Lou Weingartner (Johnny

Wayne) and Frank Schuster and through his membership in the university music club became associated with Sir Frederick Banting.

After obtaining a postdoctoral fellowship Gunning spent a year at Harvard then returned to the U of T to work on a war research project. After marrying Donna Beahan a nurse, he took up a position offered by EWR Steacie at the National Research Council in Ottawa.

After successful subsequent postings at the University of Rochester, and Chicago, where he was appointed as an assistant professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Gunning accepted a challenge to build a world class centre of research

and education in the chemical sciences at the University of Alberta.

He was internationally renowned for his work in photochemistry, kinetic mass spectrometry and oil sands chemistry. Under his guidance the Chemistry Department grew from seven staff and a handful of Masters students to 40 academic staff, more than 150 graduate students, most of them in the PhD program, and about 60 postdoctoral fellows and research associates. The department had become a training ground for gifted young researchers from all over the world.

A new building was completed in October 1973, adding another 98,000 square feet to the original 160,000 square

feet of space for the Chemistry Department.

Soon afterwards, the university presidency was offered to Dr. Gunning. His term in the presidency, during the social and economic turbulence of the 1970s, was a troubled time in university administration not only in Alberta or Canada but world-wide.

Last year the university changed the name of the Chemistry Building to the Gunning-Lemieux Chemistry Centre, honouring Gunning and Raymond Lemieux, a former U of A chemistry professor known as the father of carbohydrate chemistry.

Gunning is survived by his daughter, Judy, and three grandsons. ■

Islet isolation lab opens for business

By Geoff McMaster

The University of Alberta's famed Islet Transplantation Team celebrated the opening of its new home recently. The Clinical Islet Isolation Laboratory, housing state-of-the-art equipment and technology, will allow the team to carry out its renowned Edmonton Protocol, transplanting insulin-producing islet cells from donors into patients suffering from Type-1 diabetes.

Director Dr. Jonathan Lakey said the new \$1.3 million, 400-square-metre space will allow the team to carry out its work more safely and effectively until the team moves into a new building for diabetes research, probably within the next five years. A filtration system replaces the air in the centre 50 times every hour, and the lab will allow clinicians to process multiple organs at the same time, culture or maintain islets for transplantation, "and hopefully in the near future it will be a place where we can grow islets," said Lakey.

"Diabetes is a terrible disease, with many patients developing complications

such as blindness, kidney failure and heart disease, shortening their lives by 10 to 15 years. We want to change that...Islet isolation is a complex scientific process, a mix of both science and art and one we've been developing at the University of Alberta for many years."

Islet cells are isolated from a donor pancreas in a special clean laboratory and prepared for transplantation. The cells are then injected into a patient's portal vein during a non-surgical in-hospital procedure. The cells migrate to the liver where they begin producing insulin. If successful, the patient is free of daily insulin injections and blood sugar testing. About 160 patients around the world have been treated since the first successful transplant at the University of Alberta Hospital in 1998, and more than 80 per cent of them remained insulin free after one year.

Last month the team achieved a major breakthrough with the first "auto" transplant of islet cells in Canada. A woman with pancreatitis had islet cells removed

from her pancreas and transplanted into her liver before her pancreas was removed. Previously, the team had tried the procedure on seven patients, without success.

"This breakthrough, along with many other successes in organ and tissue transplantation has helped establish Capital Health's position as a Centre of Excellence in transplantation," said Michele Lahey, chief operating officer for U of A Hospital.

The islet isolation process takes eight to 10 hours once a donor pancreas arrives at the lab, and involves a number of people with specialized skills. Since the new lab began operating about two months ago, 10 diabetic patients have received new islets, said Lakey.

Alberta Health Minister Gary Mar was on hand for the opening, calling the lab a model of partnership and innovation. "It builds on the values of compassion, service and knowledge," he said. "Its first commitment is to advance the quality of life for patients."

Dean of Medicine Dr. Lorne Tyrrell pointed out that the team's old lab in the pharmacy building failed to meet standards required for continued funding and that "it was absolutely necessary to get this lab in place."

"Today we can honestly say this group is leading the world in finding a cure for diabetes," he said. "But it is done through partnerships between the university, Capital Health Authority, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and many others who make this happen." Other funders of the facility include the Alberta Foundation for Diabetes Research, the Alberta Building Trades Council, and the North American Foundation for the Cure for Diabetes, among others.

The opening capped off a month of good news for diabetes research at the U of A. The Muttart Diabetes Research and Training Centre also received an additional \$1 million grant from the Muttart Foundation this week, payable over the next 10 years. ■

When media have questions, the answers are Made in the USA

Canadian researchers need to change media-shy manners

By Tom Spears

I have the best job in the world. Every day I get a chance to phone up someone who has just found a comet, or decoded the genome of some weird animal (such as a human) and then these people tell me what they're doing, and why. At the end of the week I'm paid for this. I get free subscriptions to magazines where I can read about Neurotrophin-evoked rapid excitation through TrkB receptors. Sometimes there are press conferences with coffee and donuts. After 25 years as a reporter for five daily newspapers in four Canadian cities – cops, courts, city hall, education, daily city news – I believe it can't get any better.

There's a saying among some of us who cover science and health: God Bless America. This means there are times when you really need information – it has to be explained clearly, and it has to arrive on time. At those times, you scan down your media contact books from half a dozen Canadian universities and phone Harvard instead. Or MIT, Purdue, UCLA, Case Western Reserve, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Mayo Clinic, Mass General, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory or the Jet Propulsion Lab. They're all fabulous.

Need to know about the Canadian space program in a hurry? Phone NASA first. Always.

I don't believe people at American institutions are any smarter or more skilled than Canadians. But there's one enormous distinction: Americans will answer their own phones, answer all your questions in a friendly way, and offer their home numbers in case you have another question later. Canadians are, on average, more circumspect. A great many are helpful, of course. But many are hard to reach;

they just won't answer a call. Some others answer questions with questions: Why are you asking me this? How did you get my number? Will you submit a written list of your questions in advance?

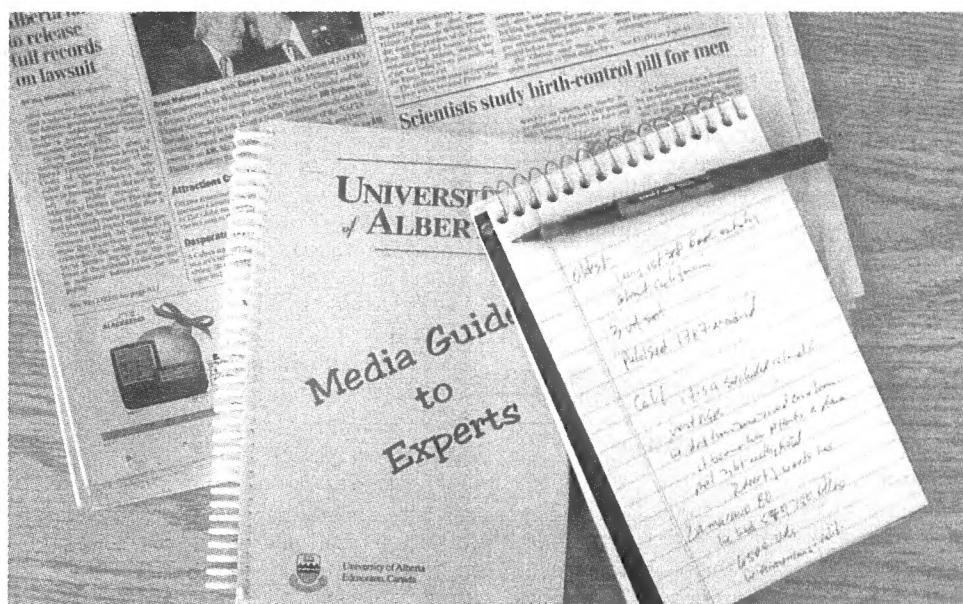
Increasing numbers are asking for veto power: You can interview me, they'll say, but only if I can then edit your story before it goes to publication. My favourite response is from a post-doctoral student at a research university when I was looking for his professor: "Here's his number, but he won't answer you."

In October, the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass., hosted its annual press seminar. For two days and three evenings, the top faculty and students at the institute that sequenced more of the human genome than any others put on lectures just for reporters, discussing human genes, evolution, malaria, cancer and X and Y chromosomes. They take endless questions.

I can ask Eric Lander and Rudolf Jaenisch anything I like. It's all on the record. Afterwards they take us to a blues club. These folks owe me nothing, yet each year they search me out to invite me. Ordinary people are going to read science stories, they say, so it's worth their time to talk to general media.

In June I was at another conference in Victoria, put on by a major Canadian research institute. The communications people were friendly and the food was generous, but the researchers were a little distant. Could I please be brief? They had schedules to keep. As I filed one story from the media workroom, a professor told me firmly that my laptop made too much noise as it dialed up an Internet connection.

How can Canadian researchers (and



Reporters are as interested in accuracy as you are. Taking time to speak with them helps educate the general public.

the institutional PR people who advise them) improve the situation?

- Answer the phone. Ten well-focused minutes can often cover a topic (short of "What's this quantum stuff about?"). After that it's OK to say you're sorry but you've got a lecture. Reporters will ask questions all day but they're willing to settle for less.
- Use plain English. I know one Ottawa scientist who just pretends he's explaining his work to his neighbour, and it usually works well.
- Understand that familiarity breeds respect. People who return my calls fast include Howard Alper, vice rector of the University of Ottawa and David Schindler, a professor at the University of Alberta – the two most recent winners of the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal. This is because they have

come to know me from years of interviews, which wouldn't happen if I went sticking journalistic knives in their backs.

- Expect the best rather than the worst. The stereotype of reporters who always look for something bad, shocking, or "negative" is, ahem, untrue. What we do want is to be surprised, to dispense with platitudes and find out something we didn't know when we woke up this morning. A pleasant surprise – say, promising results spun out from human genome research – makes just as useful news as the tawdry tabloid stuff.

(Tom Spears is the Ottawa Citizen's science reporter, a position he's held for the last six years. A complete version of this column can be found online at: www.ccaecanada.org/.) ■

folio letters to the editor

Dominant corporate culture topples university democracy

Editor, Folio:

In our house there is a little plaque that hangs in the hall. It says: "So this isn't Home Sweet Home....Adjust!" The same plaque could be revised for the University of Alberta to read: "So you expected Democracy....Adjust!" I say this because recently I was informed that my former department had been "reorganized." If I were curious, I could read about it on the Faculty of Arts web site. When I found it, I discovered that it was partly being reorganized, partly destroyed. Religious Studies was moving to history where it would continue its programs.

Comparative Literature was going to English, on the one hand, and Modern Languages & Cultural Studies, on the other. Its programs are to be "suspended". On the face of it, this appears a normal corporate move. If a unit no longer has a critical mass, eliminate it. It was decided upon, not to save money, but simply to utilize staff and resources more effectively.

It should be said that this manner of removing units flies in the face of all dem-

ocratic procedure. In the past, when such moves were contemplated, faculty and students were consulted. It was possible to proffer counter arguments at several levels and to decision-making bodies.

Transparency appeared to be maintained. In this instance, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the dean of Arts limited his consultations to "stakeholders" to use the common corporate jargon, that is, to such bodies as the academic staff association, the Graduate Students' Association, the vice-president, the dean of Graduate Studies, etc. At no time were the people who really had something at stake, that is, the teaching staff, the students, the non-academic staff, consulted.

Such a procedure poses a serious problem. Universities are not corporations, although upper-level administrators favour corporate practices. It simplifies their lives. Universities, however, are not their administration. The core of this university, for example, exists at the level of teaching and research. All teaching and research is governed by a policy of respect:

faculty respect students; researchers respect their subjects, etc. This university has chosen the corporate model in its administration: only respect the legal issues. The lack of respect shown to the people primarily affected is unmistakable and profoundly disturbing. It means staff and students in small units can at any time and without warning be stopped short upon whatever routes they might be pursuing.

So it is that the dominant culture of the U of A now is that which is reflected in the actions of its administrators. Those who teach and research are in no position to speak effectively on their own behalf. To master a discipline, at least the minimal degree required by a university, is not to be equated with governance. This means that the old idea of a university as a self-governing body of scholars is meaningless.

Challenges at the University of Alberta, apparently, can be waved off by simply referring to a web site. Perhaps the appropriate mission statement there should be: "If you think you will have a

voice....Adjust!" In other words, learn what you are told, and hope the program will last as long as you need it. Everything else operates in cyber space.

E.D. Blodgett, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
University Professor Emeritus

folio letters to the editor

Folio welcomes letters to the editor. Send your thoughts and opinions via e-mail to richard.cairney@ualberta.ca, fax at 492-2997, or by mail to Folio, Office of Public Affairs, 6th Floor General Services Building, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, accuracy and length.

Plant biologist doubles as decathlete

Peters sets sights on Pan-Am Games, Olympics

By Ryan Smith

If anyone at the University of Alberta fits the Clark Kent-Superman mould, it's Darren Peters. The mild-mannered, unassuming plant biologist also happens to be the best university athlete in Canada. For the past two years, Peters won the gold medal in the pentathlon, the five-discipline event at the Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) national championships.

Although Peters is a decathlete, the CIS doesn't stage a 10-discipline decathlon, so he has competed in the CIS pentathlon, which consists of the 60-metre hurdles, the long jump, the shot-put, the high jump and a 1,000-metre race. Points are ascribed to performance results in each event, and the athlete with the highest accumulated total wins the gold and is generally regarded as the best overall athlete in the championships.

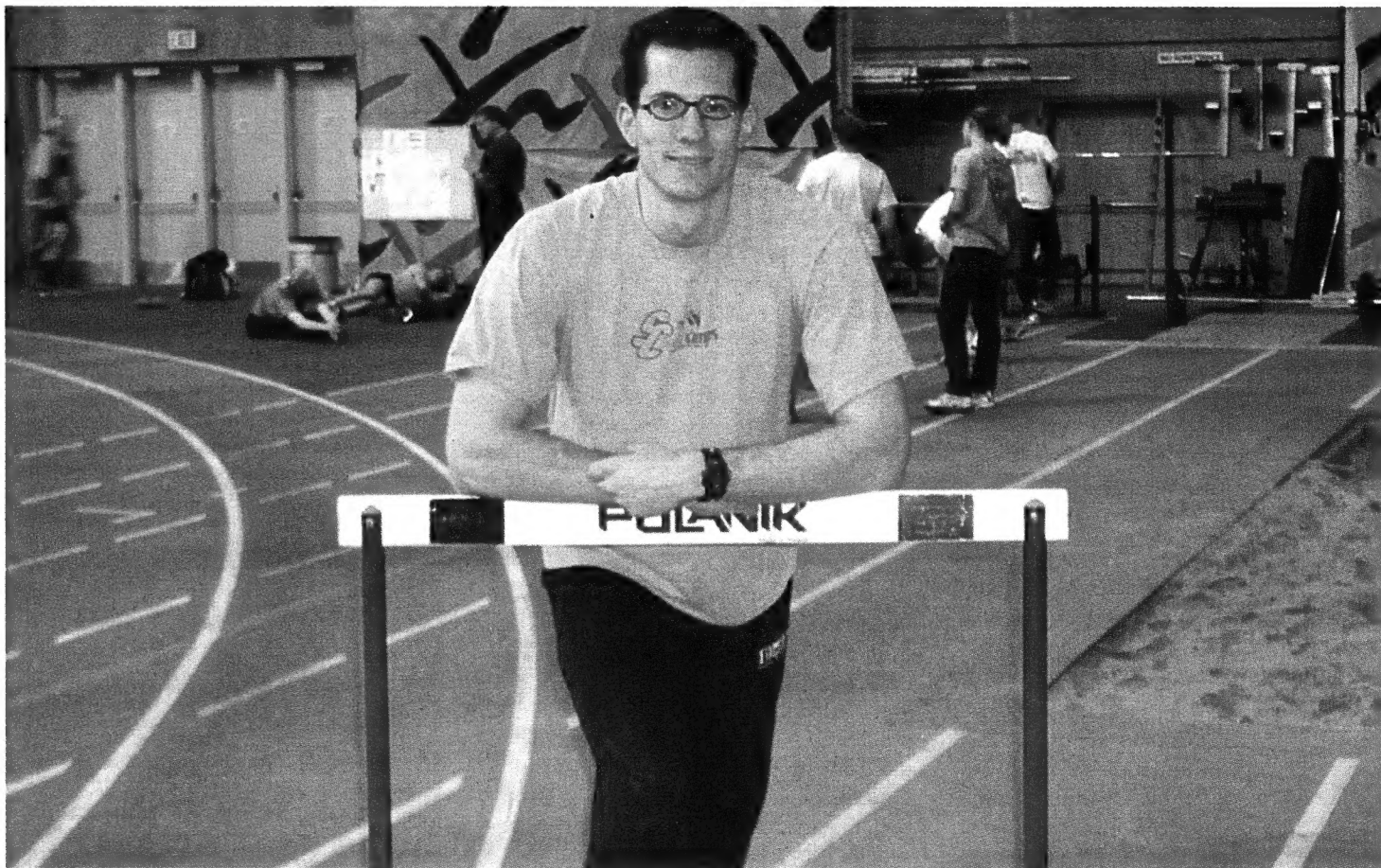
Peters, 25, has one year of CIS eligibility left, but he graduated with a master's of science at the fall convocation two weeks ago and now plans to train full-time with the newly created U of A Track and Field Club, which supplements the activities of the U of A Golden Bears and Pandas Track and Field teams. He hopes to make the national athletics team and compete in the Pan-Am Games in the Dominican Republic next August. Beyond that, he has his sights set on the world championships and the Olympics.

This past year, Peters has been ranked 167th in the world in the decathlon. He won silver in the event at the national athletics championships held last summer in Edmonton. One of his coaches at the U of A, Jim Slepica, expects greater things from Peters in the future.

"With his schooling behind him for

"He is humble and even-tempered, which is important for a decathlete, because it's extremely hard to master all the disciplines, so you have to be consistent. Darren has proven time and time again that he is just that."

— Jim Slepica



Darren Peters hopes to compete in the Pan-Am Games in the Dominican Republic next summer. He also has his sights set on the world championships and the Olympics.

now and more time to train and focus, I think Darren is poised to take over the reigns as Canada's top decathlete," said Slepica.

"Darren's speed is his main physical gift, but more than that, he is an extremely focused, intelligent, and conscientious athlete," Slepica said. "He is humble and even-tempered, which is important for a decathlete, because it's extremely hard to master all the disciplines, so you have to be consistent. Darren has proven time and time again that he is just that."

Peters is six-foot-four, 200-lbs., but Slepica and Peters agree his greatest asset is his work ethic. During the competition season he trains about four hours a day, six or seven days a week. He trains five or six days a week during the off-season and follows a nutrition plan year round.

"Darren is inquisitive and he's always talking about ways to improve his tech-

nique and performance. Whenever you talk to him about how to improve a technique, you can see in his eyes as he thinks about it, and then he goes out and makes the changes. He's extremely coachable," Slepica added.

"I've always had to work really hard as an athlete; I wasn't gifted with the greatest natural talent," said Peters, who played basketball and football in high school and turned down a number of track and field scholarship offers from schools in the U.S.

After completing his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Regina in his hometown, Peters came to the U of A for graduate studies. "I came to the U of A because I received an NSERC scholarship here and the U of A has the top biological sciences program in the country. The fact that the U of A has such a great athletics program was a bonus," he said.

Entering a PhD program in a couple of

years is a possibility for Peters, who co-authored an article with his supervisor, Dr. Peter Constabel, that will be published soon in *The Plant Journal*, one of the most prestigious journals in the field of plant biology.

Peters researches the chemical defense systems in trembling aspens. "A lot of people don't realize that plants and trees are really active metabolically all the time...If we can understand how their growth and defense systems work chemically then we can know how to help them become healthier," said Peters, who discusses both his academic and athletic pursuits with a similar combination of modesty and excitement.

"I guess I'm driven by the Olympic ideal – the constant striving to be the best you can be," he said. "I think it's important to always try to learn new things, and that's my approach to everyday life." ■

It's never too early to get fit

Early Birds group marks a quarter-century of fitness

By Richard Cairney

It was a cold and snowy Edmonton morning, and the forecast was chilling: after weeks of unseasonably warm temperatures and no snow, streets were slick with ice. And while commuters sat in bumper-to-bumper traffic, Bill Presling was out jogging.

That isn't unusual in itself, but Presling is 73 and had hip-replacement surgery a year ago. What really makes Presling's 6:30 a.m. jogs special is that he's been going for the early-morning runs for a quarter of a century.

A founding member of the University of Alberta Early Birds, Presling helped form a fitness class that has since grown into several groups of runners and walkers and spawned a series of on-campus running events.

The Early Birds group was originally formed by Art Burgess, a former student who was working on his PhD. Campus Recreation hired Burgess to work in its fitness and lifestyle section.

"One of the things he did was focus on older adults," said Campus Recreation

Director Hugh Hoyles. "It just seems that older people, partly due to Art, didn't mind getting up that early in the morning."

One of those people was Presling who, in his late 40s, decided to take up running. "Bill loves running, and he's doing a good job carrying the torch," said Hoyles.

The group stages at least four runs every year. In April the Early Birds host the U of A Faculty Club/Bill Presling Run Jog Walk, which helps raise funds for undergraduate and graduate-level scholarships; in June it holds the Not Quite Midnight run at 10:30 p.m. on a Friday, raising funds for the U of A's Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology program; in September it holds the Gourmet Goody Gallup Equalizer Run, in which runners add their age and weight and subtract that sum from their running time.

In October, the Early Birds marked their twenty-fifth anniversary with a special anniversary run. And this weekend they held their thirteenth annual Christmas Predictor Run, in which partici-

pants estimate their running times prior to the race. The two best estimates were four seconds off for the 3.25-km run and 11 seconds off for the 6.5-km run.

"These are strictly fun runs," said Presling, a professor emeritus with the School of Business. "In none of them do we recognize any first, second or thirds. We make sure we have great food after, and beer and champagne, and about 40 per cent of the people are walkers, not joggers."

The atmosphere, and the fact that some of the Early Birds' runs raise funds for charities, have made them enormously popular. So part of the challenge of staging the races is keeping them small.

"On Saturday we had 125 people out for it, and I was going to cut it off at 89. We turned away at least 50 people I know of. We took entry forms off the market six weeks ago and I still got a call on Friday night from someone who wanted to sign up."

Some Early Birds members, of course, take their running more seriously than others. Many go on to try marathon run-

ning. Presling himself has run six.

"I was out at a marathon one time and there was this woman lying on the ground at the end of it, cursing me," Presling said. "She was saying, 'Presling, you son of a gun – this is all your fault! If I hadn't gone to the Early Birds I wouldn't be doing this!'"

Presling is impressed with any effort people make to stay healthy.

"When I started in this, I was in my very late 40s and had never run really, never participated in any kind of running group. In those days I was teaching full time, and the only time I could get exercise in was in the morning," he said.

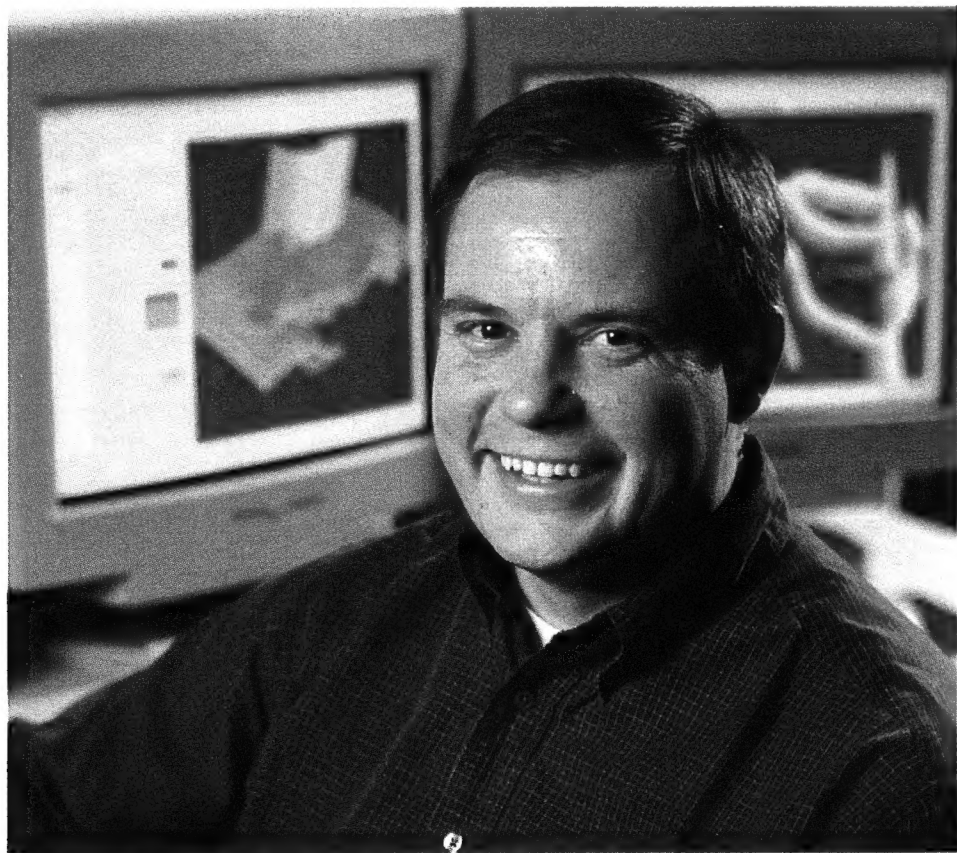
"Can anyone do it? You stop for lunch every day, so you can devote time to getting some kind of exercise three times a week too, by walking, swimming, biking—there are all kinds of opportunities."

And the Early Birds is one of them. The group's class meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 6:45 a.m. at the Pavilion Track in the Butterdome. ■

Killam professor probes beneath the surface

Deutsch creates models of resource deposits

By Suntanu Dalal



Dr. Clayton Deutsch has earned a reputation for thorough research and solid teaching skills.

For an engineering professor who develops ways to estimate the amount of natural resources in the Earth, Dr. Clayton Deutsch's geostatistics laboratory is strangely barren of the things one normally associates with geological research.

Instead of rock samples or beakers of oil laid out on lab benches, computers are the main tools of his trade. That's because the Killam Annual Professorship recipient develops numerical models to predict the distribution of mineral deposits, oil and gas reserves, and even forest and agricultural products. Industry then takes Deutsch's models and puts them into practice, so they can make better decisions about sites they're developing.

Although Deutsch does most of his work on a computer in his office, he tries to get out to mines in places as far flung as Chile and Alaska to see how the rock is organized so the information can be included in the numerical models he's developing. "If you stayed in Edmonton, you'd have a hard time understanding the problems they face out in the real world," he said. "We're in engineering and doing pure engineering research is a bit of an oxymoron. Engineering is applied science and to be applied you have to know what's going on."

While the 39-year-old professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's School of Mining and Petroleum Engineering has become renowned for his research and his textbooks, he says his focus is on teaching the next generation of researchers in his field. "There's a lot of benefits out of teaching people. You learn, yourself, but there's also a lot of satisfaction. I don't think there's many other professions that give that same satisfaction."

Deutsch has nine PhD and two MSc students working in his lab. His supervisory approach is simple: identify his students' strengths and then guide them to success. Most of his graduate students come from engineering or geology backgrounds.

As well as supervising his graduate students, his teaching is rated highly by students who take his undergraduate engineering courses.

Deutsch's teaching responsibilities extend outside of the U of A, too. He's a consulting professor at Stanford University in California, teaches annually at the

Universidad de Chile in Santiago and teaches at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro. He also runs intensive short courses for industry, to teach the latest in geostatistical techniques.

Deutsch has excelled at teaching and research since he arrived at the U of A in 1997, says Prof. Terry Hruddy, past chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "In terms of his research, there's just no question that he's a world leader in the area of geostatistics and what he has accomplished at a very early stage of his career is really quite remarkable."

Even back in high school, Deutsch knew he was going to be an engineer because numbers were his strong suit. But he also had an interest in geological sciences. In his last year of undergraduate engineering at the U of A he took a graduate engineering elective in geostatistics. "I sort of fell in love with the subject because it's kind of the merger of those two – the hard math engineering side combined with the geological processes," he said.

He went on to earn his MSc at Stanford University. He worked in industry for six years in Vancouver and Houston, Texas, but returned to Stanford to do his PhD when he realized the industry rat race wasn't his thing.

He landed a position with Stanford after completing his PhD. The U of A recruited him in 1997.

As a prairie boy, Deutsch is happy to be in Edmonton. Although his geostatistical work could be done almost anywhere in the world, the U of A was the ideal place to return to, he says, because its undergraduate engineering program is strong and there's some likelihood some of the undergrads will go on to do research.

Since Deutsch returned to the U of A, his research has been supported by grants from the Natural Sciences, Engineering and Research Council and numerous industry sources such as the Schlumberger Foundation, Chevron, Mobil and Syncrude. In the last seven years his research funding has averaged in excess of \$250,000 of funding per year.

Besides the 2002 Killam Annual Professorship, Deutsch was also awarded the Martha Cook Piper Prize in 2001 and in 1995 became the first Canadian to receive the International Association of Mathematical Geology's President's Prize. ■



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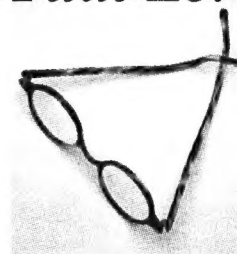
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Gauging emotions in the trauma room

Is it inappropriate to show compassion?

By Geoff McMaster



Dr. Janice Morse is researching the ways that well-intentioned remarks and actions affect the families of critically ill patients.

A mother stands by the hospital bed of her desperately ill child, doing her best to keep it together. A well-meaning nurse, wanting only to comfort the woman, approaches and says, "I know this is hard."

It's a sympathetic remark that anyone might offer in similar circumstances. But it causes the woman to break down, to cry and turn away from the bed.

In another case a woman watches her husband being resuscitated in a hospital trauma room after a suicide attempt. A nurse begins giving the woman advice on the implications of the suicide attempt and the need for psychiatric therapy. The woman collapses to the floor sobbing and remains there until her son helps her to her feet.

According to University of Alberta professor of nursing Dr. Janice Morse, who researches the behaviour of patients and family in states of trauma, both women have been "sideswiped," distracted from their stoic focus on endurance either by an expression of empathy or redirection of their thoughts to the future. And any such loss of control by family members can jeopardize a patient's care.

Understanding how to recognize the emotional states of family, and especially how to bolster their attention to the here and now, is crucial in trauma care; says Morse. In a study published in the May edition of *American Journal of Critical Care*, she argues the use of empathy is "inappropriate with persons who are emotionally suppressing and are functioning in a stoic, enduring mode."

"There's been a tremendous debate in the United States about whether to bring family members into the trauma room when a patient is being resuscitated," said Morse. "The concern is these people will need care and attention and will detract from the care the staff are trying to give the patient...However, once we understand how to react with these people who are suffering, and know how to treat them, we can bring them in more safely into the

trauma room."

There is, of course, a time and place for empathy, but only once the immediate crisis has passed. Morse believes knowing the right response at the right time should

be part of every nursing textbook.

Along with her colleague, doctoral student Charlotte Pooler, Morse came up with her findings by examining almost 200 videotaped scenarios of families with loved ones in trauma; a method called qualitative ethology, or observing and describing complex behaviour in a natural setting.

Their work on trauma-room behaviour is just one of many projects underway at the U of A

International Institute of Qualitative Methodology (IIQM). Other research includes work on fatigue, breaking bad news, the role of denial among adolescent diabetics and multiculturalism in health care. IIQM is a world centre for such research, says Morse. In fact, the centre is far better known abroad than here at home – a bit odd, says Morse, given that qualitative research is considered one of the university's priorities.

"Qualitative methodology is a particular strength of the University of Alberta," she said. The U of A stands out among other Canadian universities for the range and depth of qualitative research in a variety of disciplines including education, sociology and psychology: "it's going to be the wave of the future."

It's not that the quantitative approach isn't important, she says, just that "you can't do research without qualitative inquiry – you have to know what's going on at the local level, especially if you're working with human concerns or people."

For Morse, that means acquiring the best possible insight into how people react in unsettling environments like hospitals. As an extension of her findings on endurance and suffering, she is now completing a study that codifies the facial expressions and body language of families so nurses can be one step ahead of an emotional crisis. ■



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UNTIL FEB 05 2003

Fine Arts Open House Exhibition of Students Work, Fine Arts Program, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, 2nd and 3rd floor, University Extension Centre, 8303 - 112 Street, Edmonton, Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday and 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Saturday. Location: 3rd floor, University Extension Centre.

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Campus Observatory The Campus Observatory is open to the general public every Thursday night beginning at 8 p.m. during the academic year, with the exception of holiday periods. The Observatory is operated by faculty and student volunteers belonging to SPACE (Students for the Promotion of Astronomy, Culture and Education). For further information, please contact Dr. S. Morsink at 492-3987.

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UNTIL DEC 31 2002

Exhibit: Dressed for Rites of Passage Event sponsored by Department of Human Ecology. Dressed for Rites of Passage: University of Alberta. Our lives are full of rites of passage. Some are small, personal and informal, others are large, formal and very public. Universities are places where both individuals and institutions mark many changes and accomplishments, often with the use of clothing. Whether it is the academic robe worn by Pierre Trudeau when receiving an honorary degree, an evening gown worn to a 1930's graduation dance or the Panda tattoos of a victorious women's rugby team, we find visible ways of marking and celebrating our lives. Come to see how the University of Alberta has dressed for rites of passage since 1908. Mon - Fri: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays & holidays: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Free. Location: Lobby Gallery, Human Ecology Building.

DEC 02 - 19 2002

Merry Christmas, Win a \$200 U of A Scholarship Event sponsored by HUB Administration. Starting Dec 2/02 we invite you to drop off any non-perishable food item or toy to our office, between 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and we will give you an entry form to enter our contest. One full-time U of A student will be randomly selected to win a \$200 U of A scholarship. All food will go to the Campus Food Bank and all toys will go to Santa's Anonymous. Location: Room #209 HUB Mall, Administration Office.

DEC 10 - 21 2002

Amanda O'Connell: In Site Event sponsored by Department of Art and Design. This exhibition is the final presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Painting. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday 2-5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, and statutory holidays. Location: Fine Arts Building Gallery, rm. 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 Street and 89 Avenue, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

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Sandra Lange: How Green is Your Future? Event sponsored by Department of Art and Design. This exhibition is the final presentation for the Degree of Master in Industrial Design. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, and statutory holidays. Location: Fine Arts Building Gallery, rm. 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 89 Avenue and 112 Street, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

DEC 13 2002

Society of Student Artists Silent Art Auction The Society of Student Artists is having a Silent Art Auction Fundraiser from 7-11 p.m. The work at the auction is from our members—local emerging and student artists, along with some well established local artists in Edmonton. The auction is downtown at our gallery space 10154 103 St (basement). Bidding starts at 7 p.m. Just in time for Christmas! For info: phone the

SoSA phone line 707-8305, or email info@societyofstudentartists.org Location: 10154 103 St (basement). Web site: <http://www.societyofstudentartists.org>

DEC 14 2002

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Workshop: Interview Skills. Knowing what to expect and how to prepare effectively for an interview are the keys to success. Find out what CaPS learned from a recent survey about employers' practices and expectations regarding the interviewing process. Pre-register today at CaPS, 2-100 SUB or call 492-4291. Location: CaPS Classroom; 4-02 SUB. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

DEC 14 2002

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Workshop: Creating a Teaching Application Package. Learn how to write an effective resume and cover letter for teaching positions. In this workshop you will create a draft resume and cover letter or you can bring one you've already done to work on. Other components of your teaching application package, such as references and the autobiographical statement, will also be discussed. Pre-register today at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. Location: CaPS Classroom; 4-02 SUB. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

DEC 19 2002

Colloquium Event sponsored by Dept. of Math. and Stat. Sciences. Semyon Alesker, Tel-Aviv University and University of Chicago speaks on "Representation Theory in Convex and Integral Geometry." Location: CAB 657. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

DEC 19 2002

Department of Biological Sciences Andrew Waskiewicz will speak on "Eliminating Zebrafish PBX Proteins Reveals a Hindbrain Ground State." Special Seminar. Candidate for CRC Position, Genetics of Vertebrate Development. 2:00 p.m. Location: M 149 Biological Sciences Building.

JAN 07 2003

E-learning at the Centre for Health Promotion Studies Event sponsored by Health Promotion Studies. There is a continuing need to support the learning of health promotion/prevention leaders working in urban and rural communities, and research or policy institutions across Canada. In response, the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, Lethbridge and Toronto have developed graduate courses &/or programs. E-learning technologies (WebCT, Centra, audio streaming) and LEE4 funding have enabled us to link 5 U of A departments and 4 universities in course development and delivery. This presentation includes a brief description of the enterprise and a summary of insights regarding the use of synchronous and asynchronous software, linking departments and institutions, and collaboration in E-Learning ventures. We will also demonstrate E-learning features in courses, according to the interests of the audience. Instructor: Eugene Krupa & Faye Fletcher. Location: TELUS 238. From 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Web site: <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca>

JAN 08 2003

PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds Event sponsored by Department of Public Health Sciences. From 12 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Room 2-117 CSB. "Clinical Epidemiology," Dr Jim Kutsogiannis, Assistant Professor: "Reconciling Differences Between Cohort Studies and Clinical Trials." Web site: www.phs.ualberta.ca

JAN 10 2003

Department of Biological Sciences Shawn Morrison, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, speaks on "Winter habitat use and migration behaviour by white-tailed deer in New Brunswick." 12:00 noon in Room M-145 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol631/>

JAN 10 2003

Department of Biological Sciences Michael Cohen, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, speaks on "Self-defense against insects: Exploring quantitative resistance in rice," at 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149, of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: John Bell. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=399>

JAN 10 2003

Department of Music Music at Convocation Hall. Jacques Després, piano, Ballades by Hétu, Debussy, Brahms and Chopin. Admission: \$12/adult, \$7/student/senior. 8:00 p.m.



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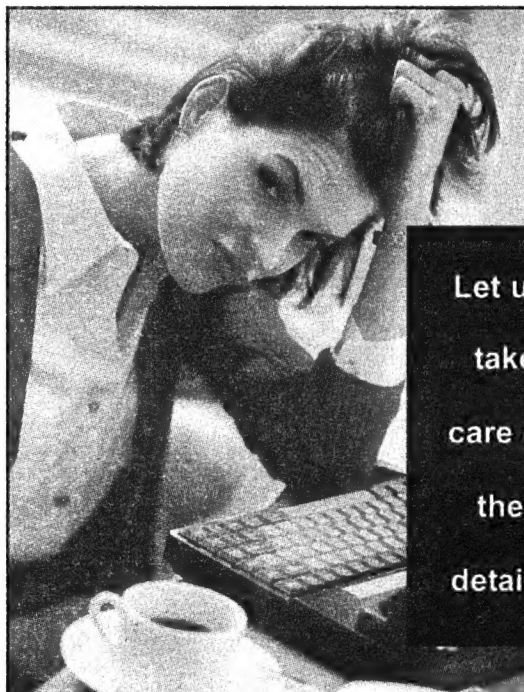
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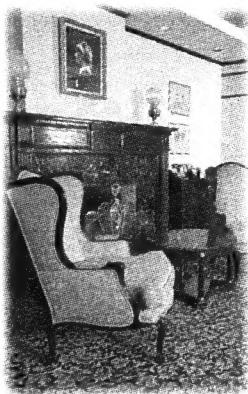


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positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

UTILITY SERVICES MANAGER ELECTRICAL UTILITIES

The University of Alberta owns and operates a district energy system in the greater campus area. The Electrical Distribution System supplies power to all facilities in the greater campus area at 15 kV with two switching stations and a major distribution network. The utility services manager, electrical utilities, reports to the director, utilities, and is responsible for directing the safe operation, maintenance and development of the electrical distribution system.

The candidate should have a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with membership in APEGGA and preferably expertise with utility or large industrial facilities. Candidates with an equivalent amount of education and experience will also be considered. The candidate should have the ability to lead the electrical utilities team in operating and maintaining a complex 15 kV distribution system that has two on-site generators and parallel utility feeds. This position is responsible for the safe, effective and efficient delivery of power to all university facilities, on and off campus. Candidates should have a good knowledge of electronic relaying and DCS systems, and shall provide the technical knowledge for an expanding electrical distribution system.

Organizational and communication skills, as well as a strong commitment to customer service are critical to this position. Computer skills and basic knowledge of the Safety Codes Act, the Electrical and Communication Utility Systems Regulations and the Canadian Electrical Codes are required.

This is a full-time continuing APO position. Salary scale: \$53,262 - \$84,328 per annum.

Contact information:
Denise Hilbrecht
Business & Systems Support
420 General Services Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1

Fax: (780) 492-7582

E-Mail: denise.hilbrecht@ualberta.ca

Applications will be accepted until December 20, 2002.

MANAGER BUDGET ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Resource Planning is inviting applications for the new position of Manager, Budget Administration.

The purpose of this position is to lead and be accountable for the successful identification and implementation of a new enterprise budget planning and administration application and to effectively integrate budget planning and budget administration activities. The position will also lead a change management process within budget administration to more effectively leverage current technologies. Finally, the incumbent will provide leadership to the four-member budget administration team.

Working within a highly dynamic and changing environment, the candidate will have a related degree supported by an accounting designation, a minimum of five years of experience and excellent computer skills including experience with Peoplesoft and preferably Cognos. The candidate will also have demonstrated skills in project management, team building, effective communication and change management.

This is a full-time Administrative Professional Officer (APO) position with a salary range of \$44,600 to \$70,600. Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, January 10th, 2003. Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be provided only to those candidates selected for interview.

Applications should be forwarded to:

Mr. Philip Stack
Director, Resource Planning
1-11 University Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9

notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail publicaffairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 3 p.m. one week prior to publication.

EFF-FSIDA (FUND FOR SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES)

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications to the EFF-FSIDA is 4:30 p.m., January 15, 2003. The next competition deadline dates are April 15, 2003 and October 15, 2003.

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Alberta to participate in research and in the international transfer of knowledge and expertise through partnerships in developing countries.

Applications and guidelines are available on the University of Alberta International Web site <www.international.ualberta.ca> under "Overseas Projects and Programs" or from the FSIDA Secretary at University of Alberta International, 1204 College Plaza, 8215-112 Street, telephone 492-3094.

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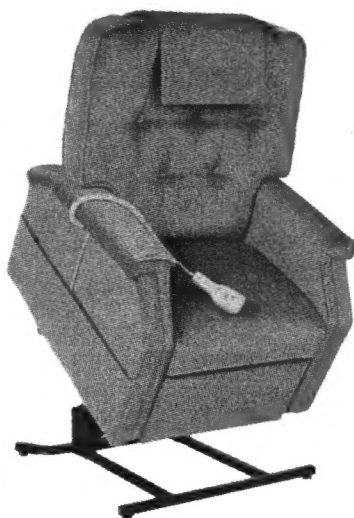
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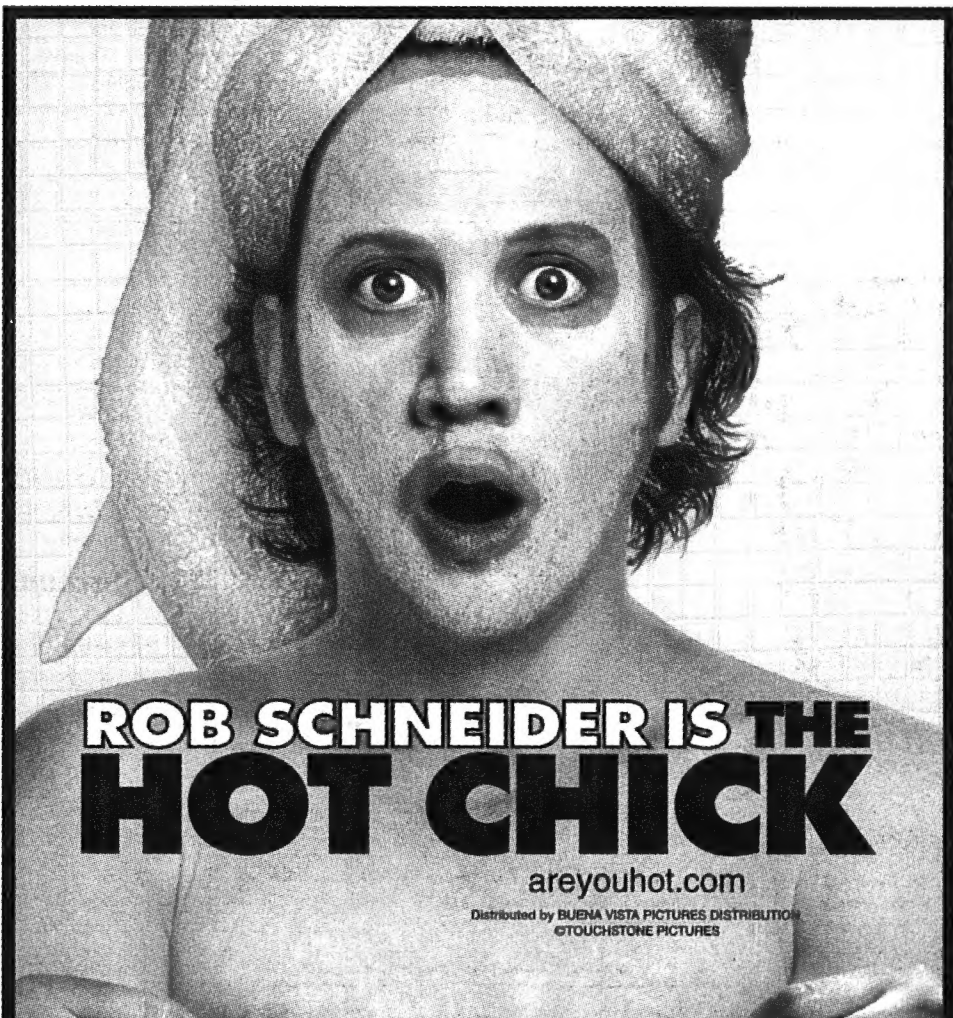
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The Golden State's Golden History

Rare books chronicle California history

by Richard Cairney

California, says John Charles, is "self-absorbed." Has been for a long time. Caught in a tug-of-war between Spain, Mexico and the U.S. itself, California's roots are, in fact, mythical. The first recorded use of the name appears in a Spanish romance novel which mentions California, a secluded island with vast riches. The state's past gives it an identity and persona that are truly distinct.

The foundations of that self-image are on full display in an exhibit entitled *The Zamorano 80* at the Bruce Peel Library. The exhibit is a chronicle of California history from its earliest days and includes an original three-volume set entitled *Noticia de California*, published in 1757. The works are the first books ever dedicated solely to California.

About a century later, the state was booming with a gold rush. The city of San Francisco saw its population explode from 18,000 to 150,000 in five years. Hence the state's wild west reputation.

The exhibit touches on outlaws as well, with tales of the notorious criminal Joaquin Murieta. How bad was Murieta? "For five years every crime in California was ascribed to him," said Charles, special collections librarian at the Bruce

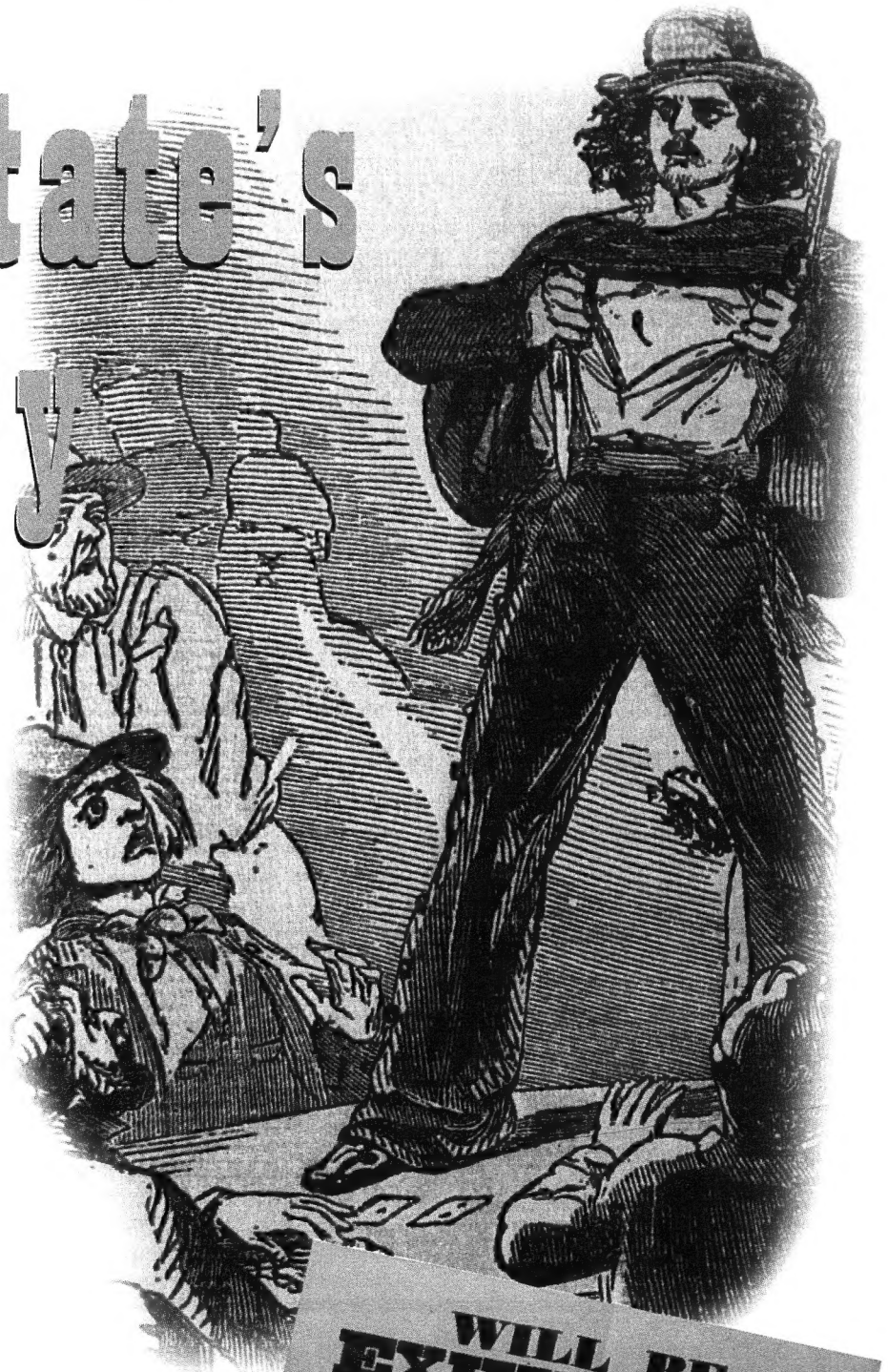
Peel Special Collections Library. And once he'd been captured, Murieta's severed head was toured around from town to town. A facsimile of a poster promoting that macabre display includes mention of a sort of warm-up act: the hand of the notorious robber and murderer Three Fingered Jack appeared on the same bill.

Charles perhaps views the act of showing off the body parts of dead criminals as a pop-culture phenomenon of the era. "See, that's what we're lacking," he jokes. "Today we have reality TV but back then..."

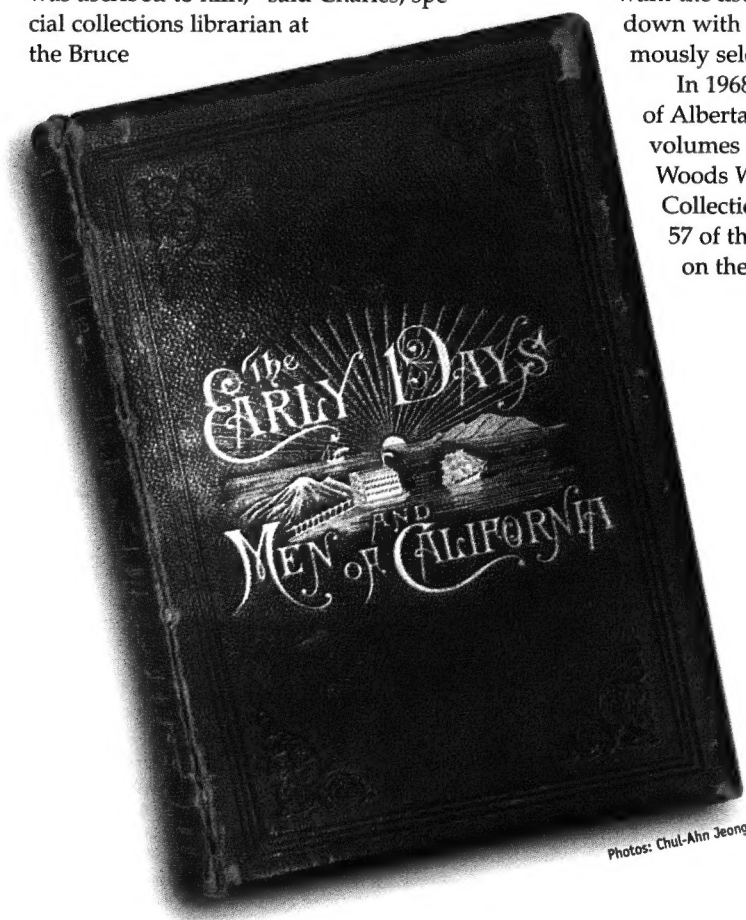
Another tome in the collection is a series of letters by a woman to her sister, written during the gold rush. "It offers quite a different perspective than all of the men's writing," Charles said.

The Zamorano 80 refers to California's first printer, Augustin Zamorano. The Zamorano Club, a group of prominent men interested in books, printing and California history, was formed in 1928. During the 1940s seven of the club's members set out to assemble a list of the 100 favourite books in California history. They could agree only on 80 and didn't want the list to be watered down with books not unanimously selected.

In 1968 the University of Alberta acquired 6,500 volumes of the Robert J. Woods Western Americana Collection, which included 57 of the 80 volumes on the Zamorano 80 list. ■



The fabled California outlaw Joaquin Murieta is said to have challenged men in a saloon to try and kill him. Someone finally did. His severed head, along with the hand of Three Fingered Jack, was toured around the state for all to see. Today, books about the state are part of an exhibit entitled *The Zamorano 80*, on display at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.



Photos: Chul-Ahn Jeong

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